National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA Space Place
Educator Newsletter

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NEWS AND NOTES FOR FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATORS

Space Place is a NASA website for elementary school-aged kids, their teachers, and their parents.

It's colorful!
It's dynamic!
It's fun!
It's rich with science, technology, engineering, and math content!
It's informal.
It's meaty.
It's easy to read and understand.
It's also in Spanish.
And it's free!

It has over 150 separate modules for kids, including hands-on projects, interactive games, animated cartoons, and amazing facts about space and Earth science and technology.

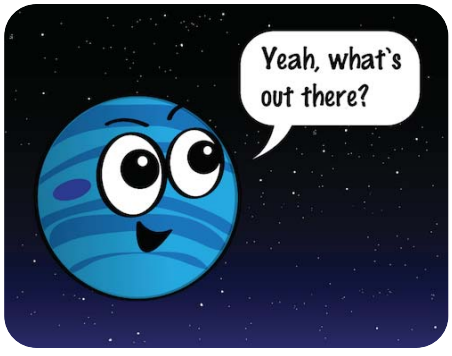
NASA Space Place has a new look! We've now made our content more accessible – check it out here: *www.spaceplace.nasa.gov*. To keep up with all the latest, follow us on Facebook and Twitter *@nasaspaceplace*. If you'd like to be added to our e-newsletter, email us at *info@spaceplace.nasa.gov.*

New!

What is the Kuiper Belt?

Explore what else is out there past Neptune! The Kuiper Belt, a ring of icy bodies where you'll find dwarf planet Pluto and other interesting objects like Eris and Haumea, is still a mysterious place. The New Horizons spacecraft will continue to explore this belt in the near future!

http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/kuiper-belt/



New!

Stretchy Universe Slime

Our universe has been stretching out in all directions ever since it began about 13.8 billion years ago, which can be seen through telescopes! In fact, the farthest galaxies are actually moving faster than those near us. Make your own stretchy universe slime and hold the universe in the palm of your hand!

http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/universe-slime/

Out-of-School Time

Are you stuck inside because of bad weather, or are you simply staying home for the weekend? Why not try some of our make-and-do activities! Here is one of our favorites: Earth Fan - Did you know that there is a lot going on beneath the surface of Earth? We pretty much spend all our time on Earth's crust, but if you dig deeper you'll find the mantle, the outer core and the inner core. Learn more about Earth's layers by making an Earth fan!

http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/earth-fan/

Science Fair Project Ideas

It's that time of year again! Are your students looking for project ideas? Do they know the necessary steps to follow? Here are a few suggestions for where to start!

http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/science-fair/

Educational Posters

NASA Space Place has downloadable posters featuring brief summaries and graphics of popular space topics. Click on the "download the poster" link on each page!

Where does the solar system end?
http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/oort-cloud/

What is a black hole?
http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/black-holes/

How did the solar system form?
http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/solar-system-formation/

Where does the sun's energy come from?
http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/sun-heat/

Tectonic Forces
http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/tectonics-snap/

GPS and the Quest for Pizza
http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/gps-pizza/

Special Days

Noteworthy days in NASA and space history you can observe in your classroom.

March 5 – In 1979, the Voyager 1 spacecraft flew past Jupiter.
Learn more fun facts about Jupiter, like how this gas giant has rings that are very hard to see.
http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/all-about-jupiter/

March 13 – Uranus was discovered this day in 1781.
Did you know that Uranus rotates on its side?
http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/all-about-uranus/

March 18 – In 1965, the first walk in space took place!
Hopefully there was no bad weather up there. Protect Earth's satellites from harmful space weather in our Shields Up game.
http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/shields-up/

April 9 – In 1959, the first group of astronauts was announced.
Check out our gallery of astronauts.
http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/gallery-technology/

April 11 – Apollo 13, the third mission intended to land on the moon, was launched on this day in 1970.
Why is the Moon so scarred with craters anyway?
http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/craters/

April 22 – Happy Earth Day!
Earth has many different layers in its atmosphere. Explore them all!
http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/atmosphere/